
The House will meet at 9:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.J. Res.90—Withdrawing Approval of U.S. from the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization

H.R. 4635—FY 2001 VA-HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriation Act

H.R. 4516—FY 2001 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act



Bills Considered Pursuant to a Rule

H.J.Res. 90—Withdrawing the Approval of Congress from the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization

Floor Situation: On Monday, June 19, the Rules Committee granted a closed rule that provides two hours of general debate divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. Paul, and Mr. DeFazio.

Summary: H.J.Res. 90 would withdraw Congressional approval from the agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Background: The Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA) (P.L. 103-465), which established the WTO, requires the President to submit a special report on U.S. participation in the WTO every five years. The report provides an opportunity for Congress to assess whether continued membership in the WTO is in the best interest of the United States. The first of the five-year reports, Chapter II of the “2000 Trade Policy Agenda and 1999 Annual Report of the President’s Trade Agreements Program”, was presented to Congress on March 2, 2000. The review detailed accomplishments from the past five years including: (1) expanding market access, (2) protecting intellectual property rights, (3) developing methods for dispute resolution, (4) expanding the rule of law, (5) finalizing agreements of financial services, telecommunications, and technology, (6) liberalizing agriculture and services, (7) progress on electronic commerce, (8) increased WTO membership from 119 to 135 nations, and (9) progress towards the accession of China and Taiwan.

After receiving the report, any Member of Congress may introduce a joint resolution to withdraw

Congressional approval of the Agreement establishing the WTO. Congress then has 90 days to act on the joint resolution. If the President vetoes the resolution, the veto may be overridden before the end of the 90 days or within 15 days of receiving the veto message.

This is a non-binding resolution that does not affect direct spending; so pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill was introduced by Mr. Paul on March 6, 2000 and **adversely** reported by the Committee on Ways and Means on June 8, 2000, by a vote of 35-0.

Views: The Republican Leadership and the Administration strongly oppose H.J.Res. 90.



H.R. 4635—FY 2001 VA-HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act

Floor Situation: The House is scheduled to continue consideration of H.R. 4635 during today's session under a unanimous consent (UC) agreement entered into last night.

Highlights. H.R. 4635 provides \$101.1 billion in new budget authority for veterans' benefits, housing programs, and various agencies dealing mostly with science, space, and the environment. This amount is \$8.22 billion more than in FY 2000 and \$6.5 billion less than the president's request (which included a \$2.6 billion FY 2001 request for FEMA emergency spending and a \$4.2 billion advance appropriation request for FY 2001 for Section 8 housing). A majority of this funding, \$76.48 billion, is allocated for discretionary spending (\$6.5 billion less than the president's request and \$4.9 billion more than last year) programs, while the remaining \$24.61 billion is mandatory spending (outside of the control of the Appropriations Committee). The CBO "freeze" level for VA-HUD is \$76.9 billion.

Amendments: Two amendments were debated yesterday by the House during consideration of H.R. 4635 but will be voted on today:

Mr. Hinchey amendment (#22) that increases the amount made available for the Federal Housing Enterprise Financial Safety Soundness Act by \$4.77 million to \$26.77 million. **Contact:** x5-6335

Ms. Kelly amendment that transfers \$1 million to the Public Housing Operating Fund from the HUD salaries and expenses. **Staff Contact:** Al Garesch, x5-5441

Amendments Pursuant to Unanimous Consent Agreement of June 20

[Note: Some amendments do not currently have a full description. Due to the time at which the UC was reached *Legislative Digest* was unable to obtain copies of some of the amendments contained in the UC. As soon as *Legislative Digest* has information on all of the new amendments an update to the *Floor Prep* will be issued.]

Under the UC no further amendment to the bill will be in order except:

- (1) pro forma amendments offered by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Appropriations Committee

(2) the following amendments which are debatable for 10 minutes:

Ms. Kaptur regarding VA Mental Illness Research *Contact: x5-4146*

Mr. Pascrell regarding VA right to know *Contact: x5-5751*

Mr. Saxton regarding EPA estuary funding *Contact: x5-4765*

Mr. Roemer regarding Space Station *Contact: x5-3915*

Messers. Roemer and Sanford amendment (#7) that requires the NASA Administrator to terminate all contracts and agreements with the Russian government necessary to remove the Russian Government as a partner in the ISS program. Also, the amendment prohibits NASA from entering into new partnerships with the Russian government regarding the ISS. The amendment does not prohibit NASA from accepting participation from Russian entities on a commercial basis or from purchasing elements of the ISS directly from Russian contractors. *Staff Contact: Pete Spiro, x5-3915*

Mr. Roemer amendment (#8) that caps the total funding for the ISS at \$21.9 billion dollars, and caps space shuttle costs associated with assembly of the ISS at \$17.7 billion dollars. These limitations do not apply to funding for operations, research, space shuttle launch costs and crew return activities subsequent to substantial completion of the ISS, which is defined as development costs comprising less than 5 percent of total ISS costs for the fiscal year. The amendment allows for these caps to adjust with inflation or the lack of performance or termination of participation by and ISS participating country. Furthermore the amendment requires the NASA administrator to provide a written notice and analysis of any modifications in the cap amounts made under the bill's provisions for such changes, to the House Science and Appropriations Committees, as well as to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation and Appropriations Committees. *Staff Contact: Pete Spiro, x5-3915*

Mr. Bilirakis amendment (#13) that establishes an office of The Environmental Protection Agency National Hazardous waste and Superfund Ombudsman. The function of this office will be to (1) assist citizens in resolving problems with the EPA, (2) identify areas where citizens are having problems dealing with the EPA, (3) propose administrative changes within the EPA to mitigate such problems, (4) identify potential legislative changes to mitigate such problems, and (5) conduct investigations, findings of fact, and make non-binding recommendations.

In order to carry out these responsibilities the Ombudsman will have the power to: (1) investigate any act of the Environmental protection agency, upon complaint or his own motion, without regard to its finality; (2) adopt rules necessary for the execution of duties, including procedures for receiving and processing complaints, conducting investigations, and reporting filing consistent with the U.S. Ombudsman Association Model Act for establishing an Ombudsman; (3) examine records and documents and inspect, without notice, the premises of the EPA and related authorities (4) issue subpoenas to any person to appear and give sworn testimony or to produce evidence related to an Ombudsman investigation; (5) conduct conferences, studies, or hearings necessary to an Ombudsman investigation or which may lead to improvements in the EPA or related agencies; (6) keep the identities and communications of people or witnesses coming before the Ombudsman confidential; (7) request an independent counsel from the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, the appropriate U.S. Attorney or otherwise to enforce the provisions of Ombudsman's office; and (8) administer a budget for the Office of Environmental Protection Agency National Hazardous Waste and Superfund Ombudsman.

In addition the Ombudsman will be required to issue annual reports on the status concerns brought to

the Ombudsman to the House Commerce Committee, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committees and the President. The amendment makes \$2 million available within the general funds of the EPA for FY 2001 to fund the office and makes a severability provision where if any part of the Amendment is found invalid all others will remain in force. *Staff Contact: Sarah Owen, x5-5755*

Mr. Bilirakis amendment (#14) that provides that \$2 million dollars of the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund account will be made available to fund the National Hazardous Waste and Superfund Ombudsman. *Staff Contact: Sarah Owen, x5-5755*

Mr. DeFazio amendment (#15) that prohibits HUD funds, including economic development programs, Community Development Block Grants, Economic Development Initiative Block Grants, and Section 108 Loan Guarantees from being used to provide financial assistance to construct, operate, or otherwise benefit shops that engage solely in the sale of tobacco. *Staff Contact: Lisa Bart, x5-6416*

Mr. DeFazio amendment (#17) that reduces funding for the Selective Service System by \$16 million, from \$23 million to \$7 million. *Staff Contact: Tom Vinson, x5-6416*

Mr. Cummings amendment (#33) that increases the NASA Science, Aeronautics and Technology account by \$2.8 million from its current \$5.6 billion, while reducing the NASA Human Space Flight account by \$2.8 million from its current \$5.5 billion. *Contact: x5-4741*

Mr. Scott amendment (#41) that adds a general provision to the bill that Expresses the Sense of the House that the FY 2001 VA-HUD bill should not result in funding for NASA aeronautic research programs that is less than the level requested in the president's FY 2001 budget.

Mr. Smith (MI) amendment (#43) that reduces the National Institutes of Health National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences funding by \$10 million from the \$60 million it was appropriated. The amendment correspondingly increases the NSF Research and Related Activities account by \$10 million for acquisition, maintenance and operation of aircraft and purchase of services for research support (the account was provided with \$3.1 billion in the bill).

(3) the following additional amendment will be debatable for 20 minutes:

Mr. Edwards regarding VA health and research *Contact: x5-6105*

Mr. Hinchey amendment (#23) may offer an amendment prohibiting funds in the bill from being used by the Department of Veterans Affairs to implement or administer the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation (VERA) system. VERA was established to provide medical care funding to regions across the country (with growing veteran populations) in a more equitable fashion. The system was created in response to findings indicating that the veteran population is shifting to different parts of the country but health care dollars are not. The VA's plan employs an allocation formula that ties funding for each of the 22 geographic regions to the numbers of veterans they actually serve. Proponents of the amendment contend that the VERA model does not provide adequate resources for aging veterans who remain in the Northeast and Midwest (where the veteran population is decreasing) and have subsequently resulted in a decrease in both the quantity and quality of health care services in those areas. *Contact: x5-6335*

Mr. Green (TX) amendment (**#34**) that adds a section to Title IV, General Provisions, that prohibits any funds provided in the bill from being used by the EPA to issue, implement, or enforce any regulatory program (including reporting requirements) applicable to pipeline facilities for the transportation of hazardous liquids subject to regulations issued by the Transportation Department's Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs. *Contact: x5-1688*

Mr. Hinchey amendment (**#35**) that adds a section to Title IV, General Provisions, that removes language in the bill that prohibits the EPA from (1) using dredging or other invasive sediment remediation technologies, (2) enforcing drinking water standards for arsenic, and (3) promulgating a drinking water standard for radon. *Contact: x5-6335*

(4) the following additional amendments will be debatable for 30 minutes:

Mr. Obey regarding the NSF *Contact: x5-3365*

Mr. Collins regarding clean air *Contact: x5-5901*

Mr. Boyd regarding FEMA *Contact: x5-5235*

Mr. Olver regarding the Kyoto Protocol

Mr. Nadler and Ms. DeGette may offer an amendment (**#3**) that increases funding for Section 8 housing by \$690 million in order to provide funds for 120,000 new Section 8 vouchers matching the administration's request for 120,000 new vouchers. The amendment will decrease the \$2.1 billion allotted for the International Space Station by a corresponding \$690 million dollars. *Staff Contacts: John Doty (Nadler) x5-5635, Shannon Good (DeGette) x5-4431*

Mr. Nadler and Ms. DeGette may offer an amendment (**#4**) that increases funding for Section 8 housing in order to provide funds for 60,000 new Section 8 vouchers (the administration requested 120,000 new vouchers). The amendment would provide \$344 million by transferring \$344 million from the \$2.1 billion allotted for the International Space Station. *Staff Contacts: John Doty (Nadler) x5-5635, Shannon Good (DeGette) x5-4431*

Mr. Hostettler may offer an amendment (**#24**) that adds a section to the bill prohibiting any funds from being used to administer the Communities for Safer Guns Coalition. The bill has not appropriated any funds for the program in FY 2001. *Contact: x5-4636*

Mr. Hostettler may offer and amendment (**#25**) that adds a section to the bill that prevents any funds in the bill from being used to enforce, implement, or administer the provisions of the March 17, 2000 settlement between the gun manufacturer Smith & Wesson and HUD. *Contact: x5-4636*

Mr. Mollohan may offer an amendment (**#39**) that increases funding for NASA Science, Aeronautics and Technology by \$322.7 million (the bill provides \$5.6 billion). *Contact: x5-4172*

Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #17, June 16, 2000.



H.R. 4516 – FY 2001 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act

Floor Situation: The House is scheduled to consider the FY 2001 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act following completion of debate on H.R. 4635. On Tuesday, June 20, 2000 the Rules Committee granted a structure rule for H.R. 4516 that provides for one hour of general debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Appropriations Committee. The rule also waives points of order against considering authorizing legislation and legislative provisions in an appropriations act, allows the Chairman of the Whole to postpone votes and reduce voting time to five minutes on a postponed question if it follows a fifteen-minute vote, and the rule provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule makes in order and waives all points of order against the four amendments in the Rules Committee report. These are: (1) the manager's amendment by Messrs. Taylor (NC) and Pastor that adds \$95.8 million to the bill, (2) an amendment by Messrs. Camp and Roemer that mandates that any money not spent for Members' representational allowances (MRAs) for FY 2001 be deposited in the U.S. Treasury for deficit or debt reduction, and (3) an amendment by Mr. Ryan that dedicates savings from amendments to appropriations bills not otherwise directed be used for debt reduction.

All Recorded Votes from H.R. 4516, Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 will be rolled until tomorrow, Thursday, June 22, 2000.

Summary: H.R. 4516 appropriates \$1.9 billion in budget authority for the House of Representatives and other legislative branch operations, \$102 million less than in FY 2000. Of this amount \$79 million is mandatory spending and \$1.8 billion is discretionary spending. Specifically, the bill provides:

- (1) \$765.55 million for the House of Representatives, (\$7.56 million more than the FY 2000 level);
- (2) \$110.4 million for joint functions of the House and Senate (\$9.78 million more than last year), including \$97.1 million for the Capitol Police Board (\$12.19 million more than last year); and
- (3) \$735.01 million for related agencies, such as the non-congressional work of the Library of Congress and the Government Printing Office (a \$19.1 million decrease from last year). Spending for the operation of the Senate Operations is not part of this bill.

Background: The Legislative Branch Appropriations bill funds House and certain Senate operations as well as various joint support services and federal agencies—such as the Library of Congress—that are associated with the legislative branch. Because of the separation of powers, these appropriations are forwarded and approved in a somewhat different manner than funding for executive departments and agencies. The budget for the legislative branch is divided into two titles. Title I contains funding for Congressional operations which includes funding for:

- (1) the House of Representatives;
- (2) joint items between the House and Senate, such as the Capitol Police, the Capitol power plant, and joint committees;
- (3) the Office of Compliance;

- (4) the Congressional Budget Office;
- (5) the Architect of the Capitol, congressional support items only;
- (6) the Congressional Research division of the Library of Congress; and
- (7) the Government Printing Office, for congressional printing and binding.

Title II funds several agencies related to the Legislative Branch, which include the Architect of the Capitol and the Government Accounting Office.

The president submitted his budget for the Legislative Branch on February 7, 2000. His budget asked for \$2.69 billion, and was later revised to \$2.71 billion. Although the president's budget request includes figures for the legislative branch, these numbers do not reflect his own policies. Rather, congressional offices and related agencies submit their own budget requests to the president, who must, by law, transmit it to Congress unchanged. Out of deference, the House and the Senate traditionally do not legislate on funding for those operations exclusive to the other body. Any disputes over joint operations or related agencies are resolved in conference.

Sticking Points: Several issues may become the subject of debate during floor consideration, including the following:

* **Funding Levels.** H.R. 4516 significantly reduces funding for a number of agencies including, the Congressional Research Service, General Accounting Office, Government Printing Office, the Architect of the Capitol, the Capitol Police, and the House of Representatives. These cuts would result in hundreds of layoffs, eliminating Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) and prevent agencies with aging workforces from replacing key staff members.

The bill was introduced by Mr. Taylor on May 23.

Amendments: The rule makes in order three amendments.

Messrs. Taylor (NC) and Pastor may offer an amendment (**#1**), debatable for 10 minutes, that increases funding for the FY 2001 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act by \$95.8 million dollars distributed over a number of different accounts in the bill. This change brings the new bill to a total of \$1.99 billion dollars in total budget authority, with \$79 million in mandatory spending and \$1.91 billion in discretionary spending. The discretionary spending level is \$7.96 less than FY 2000 and \$185.45 million less than the president's request. Specifically, the amended bill provides: (1) \$769.55 million for the House of Representatives, (\$11.5 million more than the FY 2000 level and \$20.3 million more than the bill reported by the committee); (2) \$112.6 million for joint functions of the House and Senate (\$12 million more than last year), including \$98.97 million for the Capitol Police Board (\$14.6 million more than last year and \$22.6 million more than the bill reported by the committee); and (3) \$737.5 million for related agencies, such as the non-congressional work of the Library of Congress and the Government Printing Office (a \$16.61 million decrease from last year). The bill reported from the Appropriations Committee recommended a level of \$705.39. Spending for the operation of the Senate is not part of this bill.

H.R. 4516, as amended, appropriates \$769.55 million for operations of the House for FY 2001 (\$11.56 million more than in FY 2000 and \$31.19 million less than the president's request). The increased amount restores cost of living adjustments (COLAs) for many House employees, provides



\$1.2 million in funds for transition costs to the 107th Congress, provides \$500,000 for the new member orientation, and restores \$3.3 million in funds for government contributions for the FY 2001 COLA.

Member's Representational Allowances. H.R. 4516 appropriates \$410.18 million for members' allowances, \$3.9 million more than in FY 2000 and \$12.7 million less than the president's request. This amount is \$9.66 million more than in the legislative branch appropriations bill reported by the House Appropriations Committee. This increase allows \$7.12 million for a FY 2001 COLA and a \$2.54 million increase for the FY 2001 projected level of spending.

House Committees. The amendment adds \$2.7 million to the amount appropriated for the 19 standing committees of the House. Of this request \$2.3 million is added for COLA's.

House Officers and General Employees. The amendment provides \$90.4 million for the salaries and expenses of the officers and general employees of the House, \$253,000 more than in FY 2000 and \$8.14 million less than the president's request. The measure restores \$2.1 million for COLAs.

Joint Items. The amendment provides \$112.63 million for various joint committees and activities shared with the Senate, \$12 million more than in FY 2000 and \$20.4 million less than the president's request. This represents an increase of \$22.6 million (the original bill appropriated \$89.98 million for joint items) from the bill originally reported from the House Appropriations Committee.

Capitol Police Board. The measure appropriates \$99.3 million—\$14.4 million more than the FY 2000 level and \$19.46 million less than the president's request—for expenses and personnel for the Capitol police (which include both House and Senate payrolls). This amount is \$22.65 million more than the version of the Legislative Branch appropriations bill originally reported from the House Appropriations Committee. The manager's amendment restores the COLA for the current level of staff, and removes force reductions, but freezes hiring and attrition for the Capitol Police. The new funding level adds \$2.2 million to hire the 48 officers who are in the current June recruit class, bringing the force size to 1,409.

Congressional Budget Office (CBO) The amendment appropriates \$27.4 million for CBO, \$1.28 million more than in FY 2000 and \$1.09 million less than the president's request. This is \$2.3 million more than the version of the legislative branch appropriations bill reported by the House Appropriations Committee and restores the staff level to 215 people.

Congressional Research Service (CRS). The bill provides \$73.81 million for CRS functions of the Library of Congress, \$2.84 million more than in FY 2000, and \$1.83 million less than the president's request. This amount is \$7.6 million more than in the version of the legislative branch appropriations measure originally reported by the House Appropriations Committee, and the managers amendment allows for restoring CRS staff, continuing into its third year of the CRS staff succession program and replaces staff lost in the FY 2000 rescission funding, a FY 2001 pay raise, and in-grade increases.

Government Printing Office (GPO), Superintendent of Documents. H.R.4516 provides \$25.65 million for the non-congressional printing activities of the Office of the Superintendent of Documents, \$4.22 million less than last year and \$14.8 million less than the president's request. This amount is \$14.05 million more than the legislative branch appropriations bill originally reported by the House Appropriations Committee.

General Accounting Office (GAO). The bill appropriates \$368.9 million for salaries and expenses of GAO, \$8.67 million less than in FY 2000 and \$31.02 million less than the president's request. The amount appropriated is \$17.37 million more than in the bill reported out of the House Appropriations Committee. The additional funds prevent any decrease in GAO personnel, but maintain the current hiring freeze at the agency. *Contact: x5-6401 (Taylor) or x5-4065 (Pastor)*

Messrs. Camp and Roemer may offer an amendment (#2), debatable for 20 minutes, that mandates that any money not spent for MRAs for FY 2001 be deposited in the U.S. treasury for deficit or debt reduction. *Contact: x5-3561 (Camp) or x5-3915 (Roemer)*

Mr. Ryan may offer an amendment (#3), debatable for 20 minutes, that establishes a mechanism captures all savings from successful appropriations amendments that reduce or cut funding and devotes them to debt reduction, unless they are otherwise directed to other discretionary spending. *Contact x5-3031*



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